

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: guessing, forming sentences, writing clues (pair and group work)

Focus

Modals of deduction

Aim

To practice making deductions with *could be*, *might be*, *can't be*, and *must be*.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of four and cut as indicated. Keep the A, B, C and D cards separate.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this fun modals of deduction activity, students make deductions with *could be*, *might be*, *can't be* and *must be*, and guess places from descriptions.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by telling the students that you are going to describe a place in five sentences and that they have to guess what place is being described.

Write the following sentences on the board one by one. Examples of what the students might say are in brackets:

1. Some people are walking and some are sitting down. (It could be an airport.)
2. The air is fresh. (It must be outside.)
3. Some children are playing football. (It could be a football field.)
4. Some people are having a picnic. (It can't be a football field. It might be a park or beach.)
5. There are lots of trees and flowers. (It must be a park.)

After you write each sentence, ask the students to make deductions with *could be*, *might be*, *can't be* and *must be*. See if the students can guess the place (a park) from their deductions.

Next, divide the class into groups of four (Student A, B, C and D).

Give each student a corresponding set of cards. Tell the students to arrange their cards in order from 1 to 5.

Student A turns over card A1 and reads out the sentence to the group. The other students in the group then make deductions about the place being described. Student A then turns over card A2 and reads the second sentence. The other students continue to make deductions.

This continues until they guess the place. Each clue gets progressively easier, so by clue 4 or 5 the students should know the place being described. The answer is written in brackets on card 5. Student B then reads their sentences to the group and so on.

Afterwards, divide each group into two pairs. Each pair thinks of a place and writes five clues to describe it with each clue getting progressively easier. Pairs then read out their clues to the other pair. The other pair listens and makes deductions, trying to guess the place.



A1. Some people are taking photographs.

B1. Some people are walking around.

A2. Everyone is feeling happy.

B2. There is some music playing in the background.

A3. There is a lot of food and drink.

B3. Someone is asking for their friend's opinion.

A4. All the men are wearing suits and the women are wearing dresses.

B4. A woman is looking at a price tag.

A5. The bride and groom are having the first dance. (a wedding reception)

B5. A shop assistant is telling someone where the changing rooms are. (a clothes shop)

C1. Some people are looking worried.

D1. Everyone feels relaxed.

C2. No one is talking.

D2. Someone has a ball.

C3. There are a lot of tables and chairs.

D3. Children are playing.

C4. Everyone's phone is switched off.

D4. Everyone has a towel.

C5. Students are thinking and writing. (an exam)

D5. Someone is standing on the diving board. (a swimming pool)